

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

98. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising a program for encrypting a private key used in cryptography, the program being executable on a computer to carry out the steps of:

dividing an exponent of the private key into a most significant portion and a least significant portion;

encrypting the least significant portion; and

combining the most significant portion, without encryption, and the encrypted version of the least significant portion, and storing the combined portions as the encrypted private key.